

OVERVIEW: APPLICATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

In February 2015, the MacArthur Foundation launched the Safety and Justice Challenge, an initial five-year, \$75 million investment in local reform, research, experimentation, and communications intended to create national demand for local justice reform as a means of reducing over-incarceration in America. Of more than 190 applications received from cities and counties across the country, the Foundation selected 20 sites (the “Challenge Network”) to participate in the planning phase of the Challenge.

Challenge Network sites have been working with a consortium of national experts to rigorously examine how their jails are being used; who is being held there, and what risks they pose to the community; what policies and practices have driven the growth of local jail populations and disproportionately impact low-income individuals and communities of color; and what strategies will work to reduce the unnecessary use of jail and disparities without compromising public safety. In March 2016, the Foundation will select as many as ten of these jurisdictions to receive implementation grants, ranging from \$500,000 to up to \$2 million annually **over two years**, to support implementation of the resulting reform plans.

The Foundation aims to invest in those jurisdictions that identify the most promising strategies for safely reducing overreliance on local jails and produce the most ambitious and credible plans for implementing those strategies. In selecting sites for implementation funding, the Foundation will consider the totality of the site’s experience throughout the planning phase of the Challenge, as well as the need to assemble a range of sites that are appropriately diverse and representative of the nation as a whole. To be selected to receive implementation funding, a site must:

- Aim to significantly reduce the number of people in jail, tackle racial and ethnic fairness head-on, and track progress toward achieving those aims through data collection, performance measurement, and evaluation;
- Develop a clearly articulated plan for system change, including a compelling logic about how incarceration will be reduced and a realistic implementation plan with measurable and time-sensitive goals, and assigned activities to responsible parties;
- Demonstrate the ongoing commitment of local leaders to the implementation process; and
- Confirm its willingness to share case level data with the Foundation and other initiative partners.

With this in mind, the Safety and Justice Challenge Application for Implementation Funding (the “Application”) includes the following components:

1. **Proposal.** Applicants will provide written responses to a standard set of questions, to be completed in the Foundation’s online platform, FluidReview (www.safetyandjustice.fluidreview.com).

2. **Portfolio of Work Products.** Applicants will be expected to submit final versions of the following planning phase deliverables:
 - a. System map
 - b. Logic models
 - c. Implementation plan (timeline, charter, activities and tasks)
 - d. Signed letter of intent (LOI) to share case-level data in Phase II (more information on the LOI below)
3. **Site Coordinator Memorandum.** Site coordinators will prepare a written reflection on each site's activities during the planning period. The memorandum will speak to such factors as the site's commitment to the Safety and Justice Challenge, the strength and effectiveness of the local collaborative, and the relative ambition and feasibility of the proposed reform plan. This memorandum will be submitted directly to the Foundation by your site coordinator.
4. **Telephone Interview.** Following review of the written Application components, the review committee scoring each Application will conduct a 30-minute phone interview with each applicant, during which the applicant will have an opportunity to briefly describe its reform plan, and how it proposes to leverage grant funding to fortify implementation efforts. The number and composition of interview participants is at the applicant's discretion.

PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION

Written applications should be submitted via the MacArthur Foundation's online platform at www.safetyandjustice.fluidreview.com, no later than January 6, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

Telephone interviews will take place the week of January 25, 2016, and sites will be notified regarding selection in March 2016.

We expect that your site coordinator will provide iterative feedback as you compile the application. Site coordinators should not, however, draft any portion of the written submission.

THE APPLICATION

Please respond to the following questions and submit your answers via FluidReview, noting the prescribed character limits for each question. As indicated, and when prompted, please upload required documents directly through the FluidReview portal.

Section 1. Application Questions

1. **Project or Funded activities summary (Abstract) (1,647 character limit):**
 - a. Please summarize your two-year jail reform plan, and how you propose to use Foundation funds to effectively implement it.

2. **Goals (3,313 character limit):**
 - a. What is your jail population reduction target, and the rationale behind it?
 - b. How does your jurisdiction plan to address racial and ethnic disparities?

3. **Approach (6,647 character limit):**
 - a. What are the main drivers of your jurisdiction's jail population? Please use data to demonstrate.
 - b. Describe your jurisdiction's Safety and Justice Challenge implementation plan. Please include a description of planned strategies and/or policy changes, including your site's strategy to address racial and ethnic disparities.
 - c. Why have you chosen this approach? What information do you have to suggest that this approach will meet the goals described in Question 2? If possible, present data to demonstrate that planned activities are likely to achieve your reduction target.

4. **Results (13,313 character limit):**
 - a. If awarded implementation funding, what is the vision for how your jurisdiction's criminal justice system will change and in what time frame?
 - b. How will you know that this vision for success has been achieved, and what indicators of success will you track along the way?

5. **Context/Opportunity (9,980 character limit):**
 - a. Why is now the best time to engage in jail reform in your jurisdiction? What impact has the planning process had on the context in which you're working?
 - b. What challenges do you anticipate? And, how will you overcome them?
 - c. How does this proposal complement other ongoing work in your jurisdiction?

6. **Leadership (3,313 character limit):**
 - a. Who will be the lead agency for this project and why is this agency best positioned to lead your jurisdiction through implementation?
 - b. What other organizations or individuals will participate in implementation? Are all these entities committed to sharing data as outlined in the letter of intent uploaded with this application?
 - c. How would you characterize the roles, expertise, and experience of your full team engaged in this project?

- d. How would you describe the level of commitment from the other relevant criminal justice agencies that will be involved in the implementation of your jurisdiction's reform plan?
7. **Policy Implications (6,647 character limit):**
- a. What are the legislative or administrative policy implications (if any) of this project? Are there hurdles that will need to be overcome?
8. **Learning (3,313 character limit):**
- a. What is the most important thing you expect to learn during the implementation of your jurisdiction's reform plan?
9. **Sustainability/Next Stages (3,313 character limit):**
- a. What from this project or these funded activities (if anything) do you expect to spark interest in replication by other jurisdictions?
- b. Which aspects of your proposal do you plan to sustain over the long-term, and after the grant concludes?
10. **Past Performance (6,647 character limit):**
- a. If you have previously received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation, please describe prior grant performance, including products dissemination and examples of impact. Please note that the Safety and Justice Challenge planning grant qualifies as a previous grant.
11. **Budget/Financial information (to be uploaded through the portal):**
- a. Please upload your proposed two-year grant budget.
- b. Please prepare and upload a budget narrative. If applicable, please include a list of other funders and a short explanation of the scope and objective of related grants.
- c. If indirect costs are expressed as a percentage, please upload information on your organization's current rate and review the Foundation's indirect cost policy statement.
- d. Please upload your organizational operating budget for the current year.
- e. Please upload a lobbying budget, if applicable, or a statement that MacArthur funds will not be used for lobbying purposes.

Section 2. Required Uploads

1. **Portfolio of Work Products:**
- a. Please upload final versions of the following work products, via FluidReview:
- System map
 - Logic models
 - Implementation plan (timeline, charter, activities and tasks)
- b. Please also include a cover memo (no more than one page) describing how the work products developed through this planning process were used to develop your proposed reform plan.

- c. Please upload a signed LOI to share case-level data during Phase II (Site coordinators will provide the sites with the LOI and guidance in its completion). Please note that the LOI is **not a formal data use agreement (DUA)**, but a precursor to a DUA that demonstrates commitment to share this data during implementation under a set of general parameters. ISLG will begin working with implementation sites to develop formal DUAs tailored to their local needs at the start of Phase II.